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## Kennels need €50 million to adapt to “no-kill” law

**ANIMALS** || Municipal kennels need €50 million to bring them into line with a law that came into effect last year (September 2016) prohibiting the culling of cats and dogs, says Algarvian Miguel Freitas, Portugal’s new forestry boss (see other story on this page). Kennels have been given a period of two years (until September 2018) to implement measures to adjust to the new ruling.

In the Algarve alone, kennels will need to spend around €2.5 million in new infrastructures and €1.3 million in operational costs.

Taking all of Portugal into account, the numbers rise to €30 million and €20 million, respectively.

Freitas, formerly from the Algarve boroughs association AMAL, says that while the new law is a positive step, more money is needed to bring kennels into line with the ruling.

“If there isn’t a national policy that will support municipalities, I cannot see how in two years we will solve problems that we haven’t been able to solve in 30.”

The new law envisages that only animals that are deemed to be “suffering” will be allowed to be put down at municipal kennels from September 2018.

Lagoa has already announced plans to adapt to the law, with a project to turn its municipal kennels into an “Official Centre for the Capture of Stray Animals” (Centro Oficial de Recolha de Animais Errantes).

# Quercus “delighted” with new government forestry boss

By NATASHA DONN  
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**ALGARVIAN** || With lower-echelon government reshuffle the order of last week (six out, including the Galggate trio, and eight in), environmental group Quercus is delighting in the appointment of new forestry boss and ‘honorary Algarvian’ Miguel Freitas.

Agricultural engineer Freitas leaves his position as first secretary of AMAL, the association of Algarve borough councils, after years in various key development positions in the region.

His new appointment gives the country’s leading environmental association “hope for a breath of fresh air”.

As *Lusa* explains, Freitas is taking responsibility for forestry and rural development “in the middle of the summer, at a time when the fires of Pedrógão Grande have put forestry management into the media spotlight”.

Quercus’ hope is that the 57-year-old, born in Mozambique, will be in sync with their ideas, “particularly when it comes to reducing the areas given over to eucalyptus” plantations.

Quercus’ proposals centre on the promotion of indigenous tree species that resist fire (as opposed to highly-combustible eucalyptus that help spread it), as well as the installation ‘fire

barrier’-type trees along roadsides, and the “parceling of forestry properties” (so that fires can be contained).

The association has spared criticism of Freitas’ predecessor, saying that Amândio Torres actually played an important role in fighting the liberalisation of eucalyptus, and was more a “victim of circumstance” than anything censurable.

Elsewhere, the ‘shocks’ were only that the Secretary of State for European Affairs Margarida Marques was ousted without apparently having any inkling that demotion was on its way. She is being replaced by Ana Paula Zacarias, as prime minister António Costa has used the occasion also to create a new post: Secretary of State for Housing – also taken up by a woman: Ana Pinho.

*Quercus is delighting in the appointment of new forestry boss and ‘honorary Algarvian’ Miguel Freitas.*



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